

## Notice of Determination

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Department of Forestry  
and Fire Protection  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 944246-2460

☐ County Clerk  
County of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

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*Project Title*

Pattymocus Fuelbreak Project  
Tehama County CA

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*State Clearinghouse Number*  
*(If submitted to Clearinghouse)*  
SCH # 2012042043

*Lead Agency*  
*Contact Person*  
Dan Foster, Senior  
Environmental Planner

*Telephone*  
  
(916) 653-0839

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*Project Location (include county)* The project is located in western Tehama County, Sections 1, 11, 12, Township 28N, Range 9W. Mount Diablo Bench Meridian (MDBM).

**Project Description:**

The Pattymocus Fuel Break Project entails the development of a 2.3 mile long 300' wide (84 acres in total) fuel break across private lands utilizing a ball and chain apparatus and a dozer to mechanically clear and crush chaparral brush along a system of prominent ridgelines as part of a larger fuel break system. Crushed and cleared brush will be further treated by burning during winter or spring months in approximately 1 to 5 years. As a consequence of this burning, crushed brush will be disposed of, resprouting vegetation will be burned and herbaceous vegetation will be enhanced. The crush and burn treatment retains the vegetation in an early seral stage, extends the useful life of the fuelbreak and reduces the frequency of future retreatments. The fuel break system in the area surrounding Pattymocus consists of 5 other fuel break segments that have been completed or are currently being funded. This proposed project represents the final link in efforts to tie in the fuel break system developed within the Red Bank-Colyear Springs-Pattymocus CRMP area to the South with State Route 36 to the North. The Pattymocus Fuel Break project area is located on chaparral covered slopes approximately 3.5 air miles east of the Platina community and roughly 2 air miles west of the R Ranch development.

The ball-and-chain apparatus used in connection with project work will be attached to a bulldozer to mechanically clear and crush chaparral along ridgelines and primitive jeep trails to a width of about 300 feet. The ball is a 800-pound water-filled steel globe and the chain is retired ship anchor chain connected to the bulldozer with by swivel. The "ball & chain" method will require a dozer to travel along the top of main ridges and drag a 150-foot chain that ends with a 4-foot iron ball. The chain will slide or roll on top of the soil along side slopes, catching and crushing the brush as it travels. Some soil disturbance will occur attributable to roots being pulled out of the ground as the chain passes over vegetation. The disturbed soil will be sheltered somewhat by crushed chaparral vegetation debris and resprouting vegetation until burning occurs.

Ball and chain treatment, with follow-up burning does not cause a permanent vegetation conversion. These treatments allow germination of onsite herbaceous species and retain existing chaparral species in an early seral stage.

The Pattymocus Fuel Break project area is within the western Tehama County chaparral belt which includes a fringe of oak-woodlands. Elevations within the project area range from between 1,600-3,200 feet. Slopes up to 65% are present and the area's topography is broken into flat ridges, narrow canyons and short sub-ridges. Vegetation within the project impact area consists of mature chaparral although scattered grasslands and small stands of oaks and Gray Pine are present. South slopes are characteristically chamise-dominated mixed chaparral which also include ceanothus and foothill pine. On north slopes, ceanothus and live oak dominate other chaparral species. Areas of serpentine parent material and rock have created patches of sparse vegetation.

This is to advise that the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has approved the above described project on ☒ Lead Agency ☐ Responsible Agency  
\_\_\_\_\_ and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

(Date)

1. The project (☐ will ☒ will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures (☒ were ☐ were not) made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations (☐ was ☒ was not) adopted for this project.
5. Findings (☐ were ☒ were not) made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

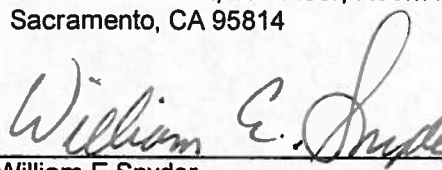
This is to certify that the record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

(walk-in requests)

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Resource Management – Environmental Protection  
1416 Ninth Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room #1516-37  
Sacramento, CA 95814

(mail-in requests)

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Resource Management – Environmental Protection  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

  
William E Snyder  
Deputy Director for Resource  
Management

Date

5/31/12

Date received for filing and posting at OPR:

